

For immediate release

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Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Albio Sires announces the release of over \$2.7 million for the State of New Jersey to provide funding for food and shelter for jurisdictions with very high levels of poverty and unemployment. This funding was appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law on February 17, 2009. This funding will go to 15 counties in the State and additional funds will go to the State to meet needs elsewhere in New Jersey. Locally, Hudson County will receive \$206,540, Essex County will receive \$264,424, Union County will receive \$172,453; and Middlesex County will receive 235,987.

“These funds will enhance the safety net for those who need it most, said Sires. “Many among us have fallen on hard times and this funding will ensure they get food and a place to stay while they get back on their feet.”

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds can be used for a broad range of services, including mass shelter, mass feeding, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, one-month assistance with rent, mortgage and utility payments to prevent evictions, and transition assistance from shelters to stable living conditions. ESFP’s objectives are to allocate funds to the neediest areas; to ensure fast response; to foster public-private sector partnerships; to ensure local decision-making; and to maintain minimal but accountable reporting

This funding is part of the \$100 million appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, please visit <http://www.recovery.gov/>

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